REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15 and 17 are currently amended, and claims 2 and 25 have been canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 3-24 and 26 are pending, with claim 22 temporarily withdrawn from consideration, and claims 2 and 25 have been canceled.

Claims 2-21 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 2 has been canceled, so this basis for rejection is considered moot. However, to avoid any future estoppel effect, it should be noted that original claim 2 was drafted to satisfy former PTO requirements when claiming the relationship recited in amended claim 2. In the past, the form presented in amended claim 2 was considered improper alternative claiming, and the claim would be rejected accordingly. That law has changed to reflect natural English usage, so claim 2 was amended to reflect the current state of the law.

Claims 2-21 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being indefinite. This basis for rejection is traversed for the reasons noted above.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Campagnolo (US 5,806,372). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a biasing mechanism applies a biasing force to the first engaging member at a first biasing location on the first engaging member so that the first engaging member engages the second engaging member. While the first engaging member engages the second engaging member and the second engaging member moves, the biasing mechanism applies the biasing force to a different second biasing location on the first engaging member so that an engaging force applied between the first engaging member and the second engaging member is less than the engaging force applied between the first engaging member and the second engaging member when the biasing mechanism applies the biasing force to the first biasing location.

Campagnolo discloses a control device for a bicycle derailleur. The control device includes a rotor (7) rotatably mounted around a shaft (4). A toothed wheel (22) is fixed to rotor (7) so that toothed wheel (22) and rotor (7) rotate together as a unit. A pawl (20) is rotatably mounted to a

downshift lever (10) through a pivot shaft (19) and is biased toward toothed wheel (22) by a spring (23)(Fig. 2). However, spring (23) always applies the biasing force to the same location on pawl (20). Thus, Campagnolo neither discloses nor suggests a biasing mechanism that applies a biasing force to a different second biasing location on the first engaging member when the second engaging member moves. As for the remaining dependent claims, Campagnolo neither discloses or suggests the subject matter recited in those claims alone or in combination with claim 1.

Claims 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hiura (US 6,508,341). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

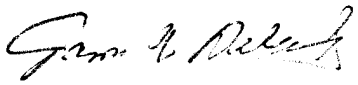
Claims 23-25 are dependent claims. Dependent claims cannot be anticipated when the corresponding parent claims have not been rejected over the same prior art.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Liu (US 6,497,163 B2). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 26 is a dependent claim. A dependent claim cannot be anticipated when the corresponding parent claim has not been rejected over the same prior art.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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